

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sudo et al. (US Patent 6,223,058).

Claim 10 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 10 is cancelled.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sudo in view of Inagaki (Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. Hei 8-250945).

Claims 1, 2, and 10 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice.

Claims 3-7, 9 and 11-12 are amended.

Thus, claims 3-7, 9, and 11-12 are pending in the application for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

The independent claims are 3, 11 and 12.

In contrast to SUDO, the claimed present invention as recited in independent claims 3, 11 and 12, using claim 3 as an example, provides, “wherein, when an output content output from said output unit is set to a maximum or minimum at said predetermined time, said operation content notifying unit notifies that an output content outputted from said output unit is a maximum or minimum.” Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, on page 16, line 21, to page 17, line 19, of the present Application.

Namely, in the claimed present invention, if a timer unit determines that a predetermined time has lapsed and that content output level is set at that time to a maximum or minimum, the operation content notifying unit notifies by an alarm that the output content is maximum or minimum. With the subject matter of the amended claims 3, 11 and 12, the timer unit can be set to a time at which the confirmation of the output content is required, such as before taking a

train, before a meeting, and the like, and if the output content at this time is maximum or minimum, it can be notified by the alarm.

On the contrary, with the Reference SUDO, it only indicates the present state according to the operation of the jog dial. As a result of the operation of the jog dial, if a maximum value is reached, the cursor is moved to the position indicating the maximum value, and upon reaching a minimum value, the cursor is moved to the position indicating the minimum value. That is, this might correspond to the screen A in FIG. 4 and the screen G in FIG. 10 of the present application. Thus, the Reference SUDO fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's configuration to enable a user to re-confirm the output content, whether it is a maximum or a minimum, at a specified time (i.e., "wherein, when an output content output from said output unit is set to a maximum or minimum at said predetermined time, said operation content notifying unit notifies that an output content outputted from said output unit is a maximum or minimum").

Further with the subject matter of dependent claims 7 and 8, when the output content is maximum or minimum at the specified time, the notification is made by voice.

Further, with respect to the cited Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 8-250945, in contrast to the claimed present invention, a sound volume setting push button switch is operated for the sound-volume-up and the sound-volume-down, and when a maximum value or a minimum value is reached, the maximum sound or the minimum sound is outputted. Namely, this Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 8-250945 does not disclose or suggest the configuration which enables a user to re-confirm the output content, whether it is a maximum or a minimum, at a specified time.

Thus, as discussed above, the claimed present invention could not have been easily conceived by one of ordinary skill in this art based on the cited References or a combination of any of these prior art References. In view of the claim amendment and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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